

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 INRE-00 /057 W
-----006278 072339Z /66

O 072302Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2169

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEXBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: NU

SUBJ: COMMENTARIES ON POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA

REF; SAN JOSE 3798

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL: COMMENTARIES BY TWO DISTINGUISHED COSTA RICANS HIGHLIGHT THE CONFLICTING PRESSURES ON THE CARAZO GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS ANY COHERENT GOCR POLICY ON NICARAGUA, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS OR NO. THERE ARE ALSO EARLY SIGNALS OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL PARTY POLARIZATION ON THE CARAZO:CALDERON ROLE IN ANY CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

2. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO ISSUED A STATEMENT 6 SEPTEMBER DEFENDING THE VENEZUELAN CALL FOR OAS ACTION AND INSISTED THAT AN INTER-AMERICAN "PACIFYING ACTION" WOULD NOT RPT NOT
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VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION. FACIO ARGUED THAT ALLOWING EVENTS TO BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY NICARAGUAN "INTERNAL VIOLENCE" WOULD LEAVE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS: THE CONTINUATION OF THE DICTATORSHIP FOR A WHILE LONGER, BASED ON TERROR AND GENOCIDE; OR THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE ONLY POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY ORGANIZED GROUP IN NICARAGUA, THE FSLN, WHICH WOULD BE MERE SUBSTITUTION OF A DICTATORSHIP OF

THE LEFT FOR ONE OF THE RIGHT. FACIO EMPHASIZED THAT EITHER OUTCOME WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR COSTA RICA: THE FORMER WOULD STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE SANDINISTAS AND REINFORCE A TOO "CORDIAL" GOCR POLICY TOWARDS SUCH FSLN LEADERS AS PLUTARCO HERNANDEZ AND EDEN PASTORA " LEADER OF ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS IN HISTORY"; THE LATTER WOULD ESTABLISH A CUBA-LIKE REGIME WITH ALL ITS ATTENDANT DANGERS RIGHT ON THE NORTHERN BORDER. CITING THE DOMINICAN PRECEDENT, FACIO CONCLUDED THAT ONLY OAS ACTION (ONCE IT WAS SO LEGITIMIZED), GAVE ANY HOPE OF AVOIDING THE EXTREMES AND CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT WHAT VENEZUELA HAD STARTED.

3. WRITING IN LA NACION, RESPECTED POLITICAL COLUMNIST ENRIQUE BENAVIDES (OF THE LEFT, BUT CONSIDERED ANTI-COMMUNIST) CRITICIZES THE CALDERON MISSION FOR ITS ANNOUNCED AIM OF SEARCHING FOR PEACE IN NICARAGUA AT A TIME, ACCORDING TO THE WRITER, WHEN THE ONLY WAY OF SECURING PEACE THERE WAS THE IMMEDIATE DEPOSITION OF SOMOZA. BENAVIDES ACCUSES CARAZO AND CALDERON, IN EFFECT, OF ATTEMPTING TO DEPRIVE THE NICARAGUANS OF THEIR RIGHT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP AND COUNSELING

"RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND WAIT UNTIL GENERAL SOMOZA FINISHES HIS TOUR OF OFFICE". HE ALSO REJECTS THE "SUPPOSED DANGERS" PREDICTED FOR THE ISTHMUS SHOULD SOMOZA FALL. AND HE DEFENDS THE FSLN IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS, CALLING THE MOVEMENT "ALL OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE SANDINISMO MEANS LIBERATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTICIPATING SUPPOSED MARXIST DEVIATIONS IN A MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BOUND ITSELF TO ALL CLASSES AND SECTORS AND WHOSE GOAL IS TO BRING DOWN AN UGLY AND NEFARIOUS DICTATORSHIP OF NEARLY HALF A CENTURY WHICH WANTS TO PERPETUATE ITSELF INDEFINITELY, IS TANTAMOUNT TO SUPPORTING SOMOZA HIMSELF".

4. OPINION FOR AND AGAINST THE CURRENT GOCR POLICY ALSO MAY LEAD TO SOME DIVISION ALONG PARTY LINES: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT RODRIGO MADRIGAL (OF CARAZO'S UNIDAD COALITION) HAS ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF THE CALDERON MISSION, WHILE MARCELO PRIETO, A LEADING PLN (OPPOSITION) DEPUTY, CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR THE PARTY, ECHOED THE EARLIER REPORTED LA REPUBLICA EDITORIAL (REFTEL), INSISTING THAT ANY SOLUTION IN NICARAGUA MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FSLN. WEISSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANJO03813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-0297
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780993/aaaacyvn.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45fa6856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SAN JOSE 3798
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1518255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTARIES ON POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45fa6856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014